

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A relief printing original plate, comprising:

a substrate;

a photosensitive layer that is laminated on said substrate and that is photosensitive to ultraviolet radiations; and

a mask layer that is laminated on the photosensitive layer, said mask layer having an ability to absorb both an ultraviolet radiation and infrared radiation, the ultraviolet absorbability of said mask layer being deactivatable in response to receiving said infrared radiation, wherein said mask layer comprises a binder resin, an acid generator, and an ultraviolet absorber whose ability to absorb the ultraviolet radiations is deactivatable in response to contact with an acid, and

wherein the deactivation of the ultraviolet absorbability in response to receiving said infrared radiation takes place along with ablation of the mask layer when radiation energy of the infrared radiation is higher than a predetermined value.

Claims 2-4 (Cancelled)

Claim 5 (Original) The relief printing original plate according to claim 1, wherein said non-ultraviolet radiation is a light having a wavelength peak in a range of 450 to 700 nm.

Claim 6 (Original) The relief printing original plate according to claim 1, wherein an oxygen permeability coefficient of said mask layer is in a range of 1×10^{-17} to 9×10^{-10} .

Claim 7 (Cancelled)

Claim 8 (Original) The relief printing original plate according to claim 7, wherein said binder resin comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of cellulose derivatives, polyalkylene oxide derivatives, and polyurethane derivatives.

Claim 9 (Original) The relief printing original plate according to claim 1, further comprising a cap layer on said mask layer.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) A method for producing a relief printing plate comprising:

providing a printing original plate having a substrate, a photosensitive resin layer having an ultraviolet sensitivity laminated thereon, and a mask layer laminated thereon, said mask layer having an ability to absorb both an ultraviolet radiation and an infrared radiation, the ultraviolet absorbability of said mask layer being deactivatable in response to receiving said infrared radiation;

irradiating said mask layer with said infrared radiation in accordance with an image pattern for printing, to convert said mask layer into a mask image layer having an irradiated area being transparent to said ultraviolet radiation, wherein said mask layer is made from a composition containing at least a binder resin, an acid generator, and an ultraviolet absorber whose ability to absorb the ultraviolet radiations is deactivatable in response to contact with an acid;

irradiating said photosensitive resin layer with said ultraviolet radiation via said mask image layer; and

developing said original plate with a developing liquid to remove a part of said photosensitive resin layer in an ultraviolet unirradiated area that has not been irradiated with said ultraviolet radiation and has thus been uncured, whereby forming a resin layer having a relief pattern on said substrate, to obtain said relief printing plate and

wherein said infrared irradiation includes controlling radiation energy of the infrared radiation to higher than a predetermined value so that the deactivation of the ultraviolet absorbability in said mask layer by said infrared irradiation takes place along with ablation of said mask layer.

Claims 11-13 (Cancelled)

Claim 14 (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein an oxygen permeability coefficient of said mask layer is adjusted in a range of 1×10^{-17} to 9×10^{-10} .

Claim 15 (Cancelled)

Claim 16 (New) The relief printing original plate according to claim 1 wherein a part of the mask layer in infrared irradiated area is removed, and the mask layer that remains at the bottom of the infrared irradiated area loses its ultraviolet absorbability.

Claim 17 (New) The method according to claim 10 wherein a part of the mask layer in infrared irradiated area is removed, and the mask layer that remains at the bottom of the infrared irradiated area loses its ultraviolet absorbability.